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United Nations Forum on Forests

Report of the seventh session (24 February 2006 and 16 to 27 April 2007)

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Note

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, in which it requested the United Nations Forum on Forests to conclude and adopt at its seventh session a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

1. *Notes* that the United Nations Forum on Forests, at its seventh session, adopted a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

2. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it adopt the draft resolution contained in the annex to the present resolution;

3. *Invites* the Forum to establish and maintain cooperation with relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies, relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and major groups in order to facilitate enhanced cooperation to achieve the purpose of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

4. *Decides* to develop and consider, with a view to adopting at the eighth session of the Forum, a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework for all types of forests, aiming at mobilizing significantly increased, new and additional resources from all sources, based on existing and emerging innovative approaches, also taking into account assessments and reviews of current financial mechanisms, to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

5. *Also decides* that the Forum should, within existing resources, convene before its eighth session an open ended ad hoc expert group meeting to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, and invites the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to assist in the development of these proposals.

Annex

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, in which the Council requested the United Nations Forum on Forests to conclude and adopt at its seventh session a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

1. *Decides* to adopt the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as contained in the appendix to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, consistent with the mandates of those organizations, and, to that end, invites the United Nations Forum on Forests to provide guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

3. *Also invites* donor Governments and other countries in a position to do so, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund of the United Nations Forum on Forests for it to address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and to provide support for participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attend meetings of the Forum;

4. *Decides* that the Forum will review the effectiveness of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as part of the overall review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests decided upon by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006.

Appendix
Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Member States,[1]

Recognizing that forests and trees outside forests provide multiple economic, social and environmental benefits and emphasizing that sustainable forest management contributes significantly to sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;[2] chapter 11 of Agenda 21;[3] the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests; resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;[4] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[5] and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; the 2005

[1] Refers to Member States of the United Nations.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex III.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Report of World Summit on Sustainable Development, *Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex 1 and resolution 2, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

World Summit Outcome;[6] and existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests,

Welcoming the accomplishments of the international arrangement on forests since its inception by Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, and recalling the decision, by Council resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, to strengthen the international arrangement on forests,

Reaffirming their commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries, as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations,

Expressing their concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the slow rate of afforestation and forest cover recovery and reforestation, and the resulting adverse impact on economies, the environment, including biological diversity, and the livelihoods of at least a billion people and their cultural heritage, and emphasizing the need for more effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges,

Recognizing the impact of climate change on forests and sustainable forest management, as well as the contribution of forests to addressing climate change,

Reaffirming the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

Stressing the need to strengthen political commitment and collective efforts at all levels, to include forests in national and international development agendas, to enhance national policy coordination and international cooperation and to promote intersectoral coordination at all levels for the effective implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests,

Emphasizing that effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity-development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and recognizing in particular the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Also emphasizing that implementation of sustainable forest management is also critically dependent upon good governance at all levels,

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[6] General Assembly resolution 60/10.

Noting that the provisions of this instrument do not prejudice the rights and obligations of Member States under international law;

Have committed themselves as follows:

I. Purpose

1. The purpose of this instrument is:

(a) To strengthen political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared global objectives on forests;

(b) To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;

(c) To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.

II. Principles

2. Member States should respect the following principles, which build upon the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Rio Forest Principles:[2]

(a) The instrument is voluntary and non-legally binding;

(b) Each State is responsible for the sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest-related laws;

(c) Major groups as identified in Agenda 21,[7] local communities, forest owners and other relevant stakeholders contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in forest decision-making processes that affect them, as well as in implementing sustainable forest management, in accordance with national legislation;

(d) Achieving sustainable forest management, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources;

(e) Achieving sustainable forest management also depends on good governance at all levels;

(f) International cooperation, including financial support, technology transfer, capacity-building and education, plays a crucial catalytic role in supporting the efforts of all countries, particularly developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to achieve sustainable forest management.

[7] The major groups identified in Agenda 21 are women, children and youth, indigenous people and their communities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers.

III. Scope

3. The instrument applies to all types of forests.

4. Sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.

IV. Global objectives on forests

5. Member States reaffirm the following shared global objectives on forests and their commitment to work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2015:

Global objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Global objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

Global Objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Global objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

V. National policies and measures

6. To achieve the purpose of the instrument, and taking into account national policies, priorities, conditions and available resources, Member States should:

(a) Develop, implement, publish and, as necessary, update national forest programmes or other strategies for sustainable forest management which identify actions needed and contain measures, policies or specific goals, taking into account the relevant proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) Consider the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management,[8] which are drawn from the criteria identified by existing criteria and indicators

[8] The elements are (a) extent of forest resources; (b) forest biological diversity; (c) forest health and vitality; (d) productive functions of forest resources; (e) protective functions of forest resources; (f) socio-economic functions of forests; and (g) legal, policy and institutional framework.

processes, as a reference framework for sustainable forest management and, in this context, identify, as appropriate, specific environmental and other forest-related aspects within those elements for consideration as criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

(c) Promote the use of management tools to assess the impact on the environment of projects that may significantly affect forests, and promote good environmental practices for such projects;

(d) Develop and implement policies that encourage the sustainable management of forests to provide a wide range of goods and services, and that also contribute to poverty reduction and the development of rural communities;

(e) Promote efficient production and processing of forest products, with a view inter alia, to reducing waste and enhancing recycling;

(f) Support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization, according to national legislation and relevant international agreements;

(g) Further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that are consistent with national priorities and conditions;

(h) Create enabling environments to encourage private sector investment, as well as investment by and involvement of local and indigenous communities, other forest users and forest owners and other relevant stakeholders, in sustainable forest management, through a framework of policies, incentives and regulations;

(i) Develop financing strategies that outline the short-, medium- and long-term financial planning for achieving sustainable forest management, taking into account domestic, private sector and foreign funding sources;

(j) Encourage recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the marketplace, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies;

(k) Identify and implement measures to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination among sectors affecting and affected by forest policies and management, with a view to integrating the forest sector into national decision-making processes and promoting sustainable forest management, including by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and by promoting forest conservation;

(l) Integrate national forest programmes, or other strategies for sustainable forest management, as referred to in paragraph 6 (a) above, into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and poverty reduction strategies;

(m) Establish or strengthen partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and joint programmes with stakeholders to advance implementation of sustainable forest management;

(n) Review and, as needed, improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement, and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, to create an enabling environment for forest investment and to combat and eradicate illegal practices according to national legislation, in the forest and other related sectors;

(o) Analyse the causes of and address threats to forest health and vitality from natural disasters and human activities, including threats from fire, pollution, pests, disease and invasive alien species;

(p) Create, develop or expand, and maintain networks of protected forest areas, taking into account the importance of conserving representative forests, by means of a range of conservation mechanisms, applied within and outside protected forest areas;

(q) Assess the conditions and management effectiveness of existing protected forest areas with a view to identifying improvements needed;

(r) Strengthen the contribution of science and research in advancing sustainable forest management by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes;

(s) Promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management;

(t) Promote and strengthen public understanding of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management, including through public awareness programmes and education;

(u) Promote and encourage access to formal and informal education, extension and training programmes on the implementation of sustainable forest management;

(v) Support education, training and extension programmes involving local and indigenous communities, forest workers and forest owners, in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests, particularly fragile ecosystems;

(w) Promote active and effective participation by major groups, local communities, forest owners and other relevant stakeholders in the development, implementation and assessment of forest-related national policies, measures and programmes;

(x) Encourage the private sector, civil society organizations and forest owners to develop, promote and implement in a transparent manner voluntary instruments, such as voluntary certification systems or other appropriate mechanisms, to develop and promote forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation, and to improve market transparency;

(y) Enhance access by households, small-scale forest owners, forest-dependent local and indigenous communities, living in and outside forest areas, to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management, consistent with sustainable forest management.

VI. International cooperation and means of implementation

7. To achieve the purpose of the instrument, Member States should:

(a) Make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation for sustainable forest management, including financial resources, to provide support, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to mobilize and provide significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(b) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

(c) Take action to raise the priority of sustainable forest management in national development plans and other plans, including poverty reduction strategies, in order to facilitate increased allocation of official development assistance and financial resources from other sources for sustainable forest management;

(d) Develop and establish positive incentives, in particular for developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to reduce the loss of forests, to promote reforestation, afforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, to implement sustainable forest management and to increase the area of protected forests;

(e) Support the efforts of countries, particularly in developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to develop and implement economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests;

(f) Strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

(g) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation with a view to promoting international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation;

(h) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance at all levels;

(i) Strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to effectively combat illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;

(j) Strengthen the capacity of countries to address forest-related illegal practices according to domestic legislation, including wildlife poaching, through enhanced public awareness, education, institutional capacity-building, technological transfer and technical cooperation, law enforcement and information networks;

(k) Enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries, for the benefit of local and indigenous communities;

(l) Strengthen mechanisms that enhance sharing among countries and the use of best practices in sustainable forest management, including through freeware-based information and communications technology;

(m) Strengthen national and local capacity in keeping with their conditions for the development and adaptation of forest-related technologies, including technologies for the use of fuelwood;

(n) Promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions and processes;

(o) Enhance the research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly the capacity of research organizations to generate and have access to forest-related data and information, and promote and support integrated and interdisciplinary research on forest-related issues, and disseminate research results;

(p) Strengthen forestry research and development in all regions, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence, as well as through global, regional and subregional networks;

(q) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable forest management;

(r) As members of the governing bodies of the organizations that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of members of the Partnership are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates, taking into account relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(s) Support the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to develop and implement joint initiatives.

VII. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

8. Member States should monitor and assess progress towards achieving the purpose of this instrument.

9. Member States should submit, on a voluntary basis, taking into account availability of resources and the requirements and conditions for the preparation of reports for other bodies or instruments, national progress reports as part of their regular reporting to the Forum.

VIII. Working modalities

10. The Forum should address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of this instrument.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Term of office of the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, in which, inter alia, it decided that following its seventh session, in 2007, the United Nations Forum on Forests would meet biennially for a period of up to two weeks, and also recalling decision ORG/2 of the Forum's organizational session held on 12 and 16 February 2001, in which the Forum provided that members of the Bureau of the Forum would hold office for a term of one year, decides that, commencing with its eighth session, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Forum shall hold office for a term of two years.

Draft decision II
Dates and venue for the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council decides that the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be held from 20 April to 1 May 2009 in New York.

Draft decision III
Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventh session and provisional agenda for its eighth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its seventh session;[9]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Forum as set out below.

Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations

3. Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 22* (E/2007/42).

4. Regional and subregional inputs.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

5. Forests in a changing environment:

(a) Forests and climate change;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

6. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management:

(a) Applying means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Decision on a voluntary global financial mechanism, a portfolio approach and a forest financing framework.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

7. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting discussion papers of major groups

8. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Note on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

9. Dates and venue for the ninth session of the Forum.

10. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Forum.

11. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eighth session.

C. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests is brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 7/1
Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling its main objective as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and also reaffirming the strengthening of the international arrangement on forests as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49,

Also recalling the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the need to reflect in the multi-year programme of work the three new principal functions of the international arrangement on forests set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, in addition to those set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35,

Emphasizing the need for concerted efforts and the importance of strengthening political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively the sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the four global objectives on forests set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests, the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests as well as previous United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council decision 2006/274 adopted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, and General Assembly resolution 57/270/B, in which the Assembly urged the coordination of work among functional commissions of the Council, and also urged functional commissions to contribute relevant substantive input to the work of the Council,

Recognizing the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

Noting General Assembly resolution 61/193 on the International Year of Forests 2011,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2007-2015,[10]

[10] E/CN.18/2007/2.

Taking into consideration the lessons learned from the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for 2001-2005, and current multi-year programmes of work of the functional commissions of the Council,

Welcoming the country-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests entitled "Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests: charting the way forward to 2015", held from 13 to 16 February 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, and taking note of the Co-Chair's summary report thereon,

Bearing in mind the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

Decides to adopt the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015 contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex
Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015

A. Forum sessions

1. The Forum will hold its sessions in the following manner:

(a) At each session, the Forum will focus on progress towards:

(i) The achievement of sustainable forest management;

(ii) Implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(iii) Achievement of the four global objectives on forests;

(iv) Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests;

(v) Implementation of previous resolutions adopted by the Forum;

(b) While addressing the elements defined in paragraph 1 (a) above, the Forum will consider the following overall themes (incorporating the themes provided in the appendix):

(i) Eighth session (2009): Forests in a changing environment; and Means of implementation for sustainable forest management;

(ii) Ninth session (2011): Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication;

(iii) Tenth session (2013): Forests and economic development;

(iv) Eleventh session (2015): Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests;

(c) At each session, the Forum will have as its main task a discussion on the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(d) At each session, the cross-cutting issues "Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building,

awareness-raising, education and information-sharing)" and "Forest law enforcement and governance at all levels" will be addressed in the context of the discussions of the themes of that session;

(e) At each session, the Forum will also address the common agenda items achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; regional and subregional inputs; multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation; and enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including activities and inputs of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(f) At each session, the Forum will provide, including through interactive panels, a platform for dialogue with:

(i) The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and, on invitation, the Chairpersons of the governing bodies of relevant environmental multilateral agreements, as appropriate;

(ii) Representatives of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and other relevant stakeholders;

(iii) Regional and subregional forest-related and other relevant processes, mechanisms, instruments and organizations;

(g) The discussion at each session will focus on the exchange of national and regional experiences, activities and sharing best practices and lessons learned, identifying constraints and challenges in the advancement of elements in 1 (a) above;

(h) Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, high-level ministerial segments, including a dialogue with the heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as other forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, will be held in 2011 and 2015;

(i) At its ninth session, to be held in 2011, the Forum will also celebrate the International Year of Forests 2011;

(j) The Forum secretariat will report on activities and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions related to the multi-year programme of work and will prepare a summary of relevant decisions of the Forum to contribute to the work of the Council, as needed;

2. The outcomes of the deliberations could be, as appropriate, the Chairman's summary (or summaries) and the negotiated resolutions and decisions containing policy guidance for Member States and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

3. The Forum will hold its sessions at United Nations Headquarters in the first half of 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015;

B. Intersessional activities of the Forum

4. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, the Forum may convene ad hoc expert group meetings;

5. The Forum welcomes the convening of country-, organization- and region-led initiatives in support of the work of the Forum and focused on topical issues of the multi-year programme of work;

6. During periods between biennial sessions of the Forum, the Bureau and the Forum secretariat will coordinate to effectively prepare for the sessions, drawing on the outcomes of the following:

(a) Consultations with Member States;

(b) Forest-related, and other relevant regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes;

(c) Member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(d) Major group activities;

(e) Country-, organization- and region-led initiatives on topics relevant to the upcoming Forum session;

(f) Ad hoc expert group meetings;

(g) Expert meetings and/or preparatory working meetings that the Forum may decide to organize for the preparation of its future sessions.

C. Regional and subregional inputs and dialogue on regional priorities

7. Relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes are invited to address issues and agenda items planned for each Forum session and to provide a concise summary of their deliberations, to be submitted well in advance to the secretariat prior to the upcoming Forum session, and are encouraged to contribute to the discussions of the Forum sessions, according to their respective mandates;

8. The Secretary-General is requested to prepare a report summarizing the submissions described in paragraph 8 above;

D. Emerging issues

9. The Forum may include in the agenda of any of its sessions emerging issues of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management and which are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session;

10. The Bureau of the session, in consultation with Member States, will decide on the inclusion of emerging issues, taking into account contributions from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, major groups, regions and subregions and the Forum secretariat;

E. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

11. The Forum will continue to provide policy guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

12. At each session, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the Forum on the Partnership's initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of

implementation, in support of the work of the Forum, and are encouraged to participate actively in the discussions of the Forum;

13. The Forum will further encourage partnerships involving multi-stakeholders and relevant forest-related international, regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes, as well as the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to develop synergies and to explore possibilities for joint activities towards the achievement of sustainable forest management, the global objectives of forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

14. Major groups and other forest stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to and participate actively in the discussions of the Forum and, where appropriate, in relevant regional and subregional discussions with a view to providing their perspectives and input to the Forum's programme of work and engaging in an exchange of views and experiences with other Forum participants;

F. International Year of Forests 2011

15. Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional groups, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to share information on their activities in support of the International Year of the Forests;

G. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

16. The Forum will address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

H. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

17. Countries should, on a voluntary basis, submit national reports to the Forum, in accordance with a timetable established by the Forum, on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives set out in Council resolution 2006/49, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forests management;

18. Member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in collaboration with the Forum, are invited to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries;

19. For the ninth session (2011) and the eleventh session (2015) of the Forum, the Secretary-General is requested to prepare, in collaboration and coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in its capacity as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, analytical consolidated reports, based on voluntary country reports, contributions from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations, relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders, making the best use of existing information systems and the inputs from other relevant processes, in order to serve the purposes set out in paragraphs 20, 22 and 23 below. The report on the eleventh

session will also include an assessment of the international arrangement on forests and the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

I. Assessment of progress and review

20. At its ninth session, in 2011, the Forum will assess overall progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests. The Forum will use the report mentioned in paragraph 19 above as background information for that assessment;

21. The Forum will provide relevant input to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

22. The Forum will devote its eleventh session, in 2015, primarily to a review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and consideration of all options for the future, as stated by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 32 of its resolution 2006/49. The Forum will use the report mentioned in paragraph 19 above as background information for that review;

23. At its eleventh session, the Forum will also review the contribution made by forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as mentioned by the Council in paragraph 2 (a) of its resolution 2006/49, and will provide input to the review by the General Assembly, as requested. The Forum will use the report mentioned in paragraph 19 above as background information for that review;

J. Resources

24. The Forum stresses the need to provide from within the regular budget of the United Nations adequate resources to undertake the agreed work programme of the Forum and its secretariat;

25. Interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations are called upon to make voluntary financial contributions to the Forum trust fund. Other countries in a position to do so and other interested parties are also urged to contribute to the trust fund;

26. The Forum should continue to support participants from developing countries, with priority given to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, in accordance with General Assembly decision 58/554 of 23 December 2003;

27. In order to ensure transparency, the Forum secretariat will report to the Forum at each session on the operation of the Forum trust fund, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds have been expended;

28. Member States and other interested parties are invited to contribute to the Forum trust fund to support activities to celebrate the International Year of Forests.

Appendix

United Nations Forum on Forests: multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015

	Eighth session	*Ninth session*	*Tenth session*	*Eleventh session*
Main task	Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests			Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the international arrangement on forests
Overall themes	Forests in a changing environment; Means of implementation for sustainable forest management	Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication	Forests and economic development	Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests
Themes	Forests in a changing environment • Forests and climate change • Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries • Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas	• Community-based forest management • Social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure • Social and cultural aspects International Year of Forests 2011 Assessment of Progress High-level segment	• Forest products and services • National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies • Reducing risks and impacts of disasters • Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities An emerging issue may be also considered	• Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options, as stated by the Council in its resolution 2006/49, paragraph 32 • Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

	Eighth session	*Ninth session*	*Tenth session*	*Eleventh session*
	Means of implementation for sustainable forest management Decision on a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework An emerging issue may be also considered	An emerging issue may be also considered		• Reviewing the contribution of forests and the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, to the internationally agreed development goals High-level segment An emerging issue may be also considered
Cross-cutting issues	Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building, awareness-raising, education and information-sharing); forest law enforcement and governance at all levels			
Common agenda items	Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; regional and subregional inputs; multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation; enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including activities and inputs of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests			

Chapter II
Multi-year programme of work

1. The Forum considered agenda item 3 at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 16 and 27 April 2007. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2007/2);

(b) Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2007/7).

2. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Forum considered agenda item 3 jointly with item 4, "non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", and heard an introductory statement by the Coordinator of the secretariat of the Forum.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Minister of Forestry of Indonesia.

4. Also at the same meeting, presentations were made by two representatives of the secretariat of the Forum.

Action taken by the Forum

Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015

5. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April, the Forum had before it a draft resolution entitled "multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2007-2015", which had been submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations and which was contained in an informal paper in English only.

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman, Arvids Ozols (Latvia), in his capacity as Co-Chairman of Working Group 2.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary read out an oral statement prepared by the Programme Planning and Budget Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts of the United Nations Secretariat.

8. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, the United States of America, Argentina, Germany, Mexico, Costa Rica and Switzerland.

9. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. 1, sect. C, resolution 7/1).

Chapter III
Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

1. The Forum considered agenda item 4 at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 16, 17 and 27 April 2007. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2007/3);

(b) Report of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/4).

2. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Forum considered agenda item 4 jointly with item 3, "Multi-year programme of work", and heard an introductory statement by the Coordinator of the secretariat of the Forum.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Minister of Forestry of Indonesia.

4. Also at the same meeting, presentations were made by two representatives of the secretariat of the Forum.

5. At the 4th meeting, on 17 April, on the proposal of the representative of Australia, endorsed by the Bureau of the Forum, the Forum agreed to hear a presentation of a background paper on means of implementation contributed by the Programme on Forests hosted by the World Bank.

6. At the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by a representative of the World Bank.

7. Also at the same meeting, the background paper was presented by two consultants on behalf of the Programme on Forests.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Germany, Cuba, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Action taken by the Forum

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

9. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April, the Forum had before it a draft resolution entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", containing in an annex, for adoption by the General Assembly, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, and which was contained in an informal paper in English only.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, Hamidon Ali (Malaysia), in his capacity as Chairman of Working Group I.

11. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Brazil, Australia and Nigeria.

12. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter IV
Multi-stakeholder dialogue

1. The Forum considered agenda item 5 at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 18 and 23 April 2007. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2007/4);

(b) Discussion paper contributed by the children and youth major group (E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.1);

(c) Discussion paper contributed by the workers and trade unions' major group (E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.2);

(d) Discussion paper contributed by the non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples major group (E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.3);

(e) Discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological communities major group (E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.4);

(f) Discussion paper contributed by the women major group (E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.5);

(g) Discussion paper contributed by the farmers and small forest landowners major group (E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.6).

Presentations by major groups

2. At the 5th meeting, on 18 April, an introductory statement was made by the Coordinator of the Forum secretariat.

3. At the same meeting, presentations were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; farmers and small forest landowners; non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples; scientific and technological communities; and workers and trade unions.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Uruguay, the United Republic of Tanzania, Senegal, Panama, Australia, Switzerland, Malaysia, the Dominican Republic and Croatia.

5. At the same meeting, representatives of the major groups responded to comments made and questions posed by the delegations.

6. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Coordinator of the Forum secretariat.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue

7. At its 6th meeting, on 23 April, a representative of the indigenous peoples major group, acting as facilitator for the dialogue, made an introductory statement.

Theme 1
indigenous peoples and local communities

8. At the same meeting, on the theme "Indigenous peoples and local communities", a statement was made by the facilitator in her capacity as representative of the indigenous peoples major group.

Theme 2
engaging the private sector

9. Also at the same meeting, on the theme "Engaging the private sector", statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: business and industry; workers and trade unions; farmers and small forest landowners; scientific and technological communities; children and youth; and women. Statements were also made by the representatives of Guatemala, Pakistan and Australia.

Theme 3
strengthening major groups' involvement

10. At the same meeting, on the theme "Strengthening major groups' involvement", statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; farmers and small forest landowners; children and youth; scientific and technological communities; non-governmental organizations; and indigenous peoples. Statements were also made by the representatives of Guatemala, Uruguay, Switzerland, Ecuador and the United States.

11. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Chapter V

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

1. The Forum considered agenda item 6 at its 3rd and 5th meetings, on 16 and 18 April 2007. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2007/5);

(b) Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2007 (E/CN.18/2007/6).

2. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April, introductory statements were made by two representatives of the Forum secretariat.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Guatemala and Mexico.

4. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Panel of chairmen of the governing bodies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

5. At the 5th meeting, on 18 April, an opening statement was made by the Chairman of the Forum.

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Coordinator of the Forum secretariat.

7. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the Chairperson of the International Tropical Timber Council; the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, on behalf of the Chairman of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for International Forestry Research; a representative of the World Bank, speaking on behalf of the Vice-President and Head of the Sustainable Development Network, World Bank; the Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the immediate past President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations; and a representative of the Global Environment Facility, speaking on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility Council.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Australia, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Chapter VI
Dates and venue for the eighth session of the Forum

At its 7th meeting, on 27 April 2007, the Forum decided that its eighth session would be held from 20 April to 1 May 2009 (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

Chapter VII
Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Forum

1. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April 2007, the Forum had before it an informal paper submitted in English only, containing the provisional agenda for its eighth session.

2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Mexico and Australia, after which the Forum adopted the provisional agenda (see chap. I, sect. B. draft decision III).

Chapter VIII
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventh session

1. At its 7th meeting, on 27 April 2007, the Chairman introduced the draft report of the Forum on its seventh session (E/CN.18/2007/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum decided to annex to its report a Chairman's summary of the launch of the preparations for the International Year of Forests 2011; a Chairman's summary of discussion of the panel of chairmen of the governing bodies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and a Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue.

3. The Forum adopted the draft report and authorized the Secretariat to finalize it with the support of the Bureau.

Chapter IX
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its seventh session at United Nations Headquarters on 24 February 2006 and from 16 to 27 April 2007. The Forum held seven plenary meetings (1st to 7th).

2. The session was opened by the Coordinator of the Forum secretariat.

B. Attendance

3. The Forum was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.18/2007/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 24 February 2006 and 16 April 2007, the Forum elected the following officers for its seventh session:

Chairman:
Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairmen:
Hamidon Ali (Malaysia)
Cristián Maquieira (Chile)
André-Jules Madingou (Gabon)
Arvids Ozols (Latvia)

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 April 2007, the Forum was informed that Cristián Maquieira (Chile) had withdrawn from the position of Vice-Chairman.

D. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 April, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for its seventh session (E/CN.18/2007/1):

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Multi-year programme of work.
4. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests.
5. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.

6. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

7. Dates and venue for the eighth session of the Forum.

8. Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Forum.

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its seventh session.

E. Documentation

7. The list of documents before the Forum at its seventh session is contained in annex I to the present report.

F. Establishment of working groups and designation of their chairmen

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 April, the Forum established two working groups that were chaired by the Vice-Chairmen as follows:

(a) Working Group I: Hamidon Ali (Malaysia)

(b) Working Group II: Arvids Ozols (Latvia), André-Jules Madingou (Gabon).

Annex I

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.18/2007/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.18/2007/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2007/3	4	Note by the Secretariat on the revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
E/CN.18/2007/4	5	Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.1	5	Discussion paper contributed by the children and youth major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.2	5	Discussion paper contributed by the workers and trade unions major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.3	5	Discussion paper contributed by the non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.4	5	Discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological communities major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.5	5	Discussion paper contributed by the women major group
E/CN.18/2007/4/Add.6	5	Discussion paper contributed by the farmers and small forest landowners major group
E/CN.18/2007/5	6	Note by the Secretariat on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination
E/CN.18/2007/6	6	Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2007
E/CN.18/AC.I/2006/4	6	Report of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
E/CN.18/2007/7	3	Letter dated 23 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2007/INF.1	1	List of participants

Annex II

Chairman's summary of the launch of preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011

1. By its resolution 61/193, the General Assembly decided to declare 2011 the International Year of Forests. On 17 April 2007, a special event was held to mark the launch of preparations for the Year. The present summary highlights the hopes, commitments and possible constraints expressed during the discussions.

2. In his opening remarks, the Coordinator of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests explained that the International Year of Forests should provide a stimulus to enhance awareness and mobilize action for the successful promotion of sustainable forest management. He emphasized the need to bring about real change in how the world's forests were managed and stressed the vital role of broad public participation and education in raising awareness of nature and forests. He expressed his wish that Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, as well as relevant major groups, would collaborate in making the Year a success.

3. The Assistant Minister at the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Croatia reminded delegates that General Assembly resolution 61/193 had been catalysed by a Croatian initiative at the fifth session of the Forum. He explained that their motivation had been the lessons learned from Croatian forests, including the recognition that forests were much more important to society than merely for their contribution to gross domestic product. In addition to the purification of water and air, shelter, the protection of soils and biodiversity conservation, forests had a major role in the mitigation of climate change. The International Year of Forests would also provide a tremendous opportunity to strengthen commitments to sustainable forest management by raising awareness, at all levels, of the critical role that forests play in sustainable development, poverty reduction and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. He invited all countries that had not already done so to begin preparatory activities for 2011.

4. The Minister for Forests, Fisheries and National Parks of Gabon spoke on behalf of his country and of the Central Africa Forests Commission, whose member States include Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Chad. He emphasized the importance of the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests, highlighting the particular challenges facing tropical forests. He then outlined progress that was being made towards sustainable management of the forests of central Africa, through the creation of 2.8 million hectares of new protected areas, stressing the need to ensure that international public opinion was made aware of the importance of that work. He pointed to the continuing need for new resources as a particular challenge. He said that the Commission would spare no effort to support the International Year of Forests.

5. The Minister of Forestry of Indonesia stressed the role of forests as the world's oxygen factories and as a source of livelihood, food and shelter for millions of people. In addition to highlighting the links between forests and development, he stated that the International Year of the Forest would revitalize the motivation of the

Government of Indonesia to implement sustainable forest management. Specific actions included a national campaign for forest and land rehabilitation, effective management of protected areas, decentralization of forest resource management and tackling illegal logging. Noting that, at the current pace of illegal logging, natural forests in Indonesia could disappear within 10 years, he explained that the Government crackdown on illegal logging gave grounds for optimism.

6. The Minister for the Environment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo noted that the international community was paying increasing attention to the forests of his country, which were one of the world's richest areas of biodiversity. He outlined the themes in the area of forests and the environment, including good forestry governance; tackling illegal exploitation; participative multi-use zoning; preventing deforestation; valuing carbon storage and hydrographic functions; fostering non-extractive usage; promoting innovative funding mechanisms; restoration of major protected areas; reforestation; afforestation; redistribution of profits to local indigenous peoples; education; and closer collaboration with civil society and the private sector. He emphasized the importance of appealing to partners to help finance those activities to safeguard the "second lung of the planet" and ensure economic revitalization.

7. The Vice Minister for the Environment of Costa Rica said that, after the agreement on the Rio Forest Principles and the establishment of the Forum process, the most important international decision on forests had been the declaration of the International Year of Forests 2011. Action in Costa Rica had shown how deforestation could be reversed, the forest area having doubled between 1980 and 2005 as a result of political will, commitment to the planet and schemes to ensure payment for environmental services. The International Year of Forests provided an opportunity to consolidate sustainable forest management around the world and to give effect to the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Human life depended on successful management of the environment and, in recognition of that fact, the International Year of Forests should promote the idea of "peace with nature".

8. The Under-secretary of State in the Ministry of Environment of Poland, noted that global forest resources continue to disappear at a frightening pace and that a concerted effort by the international community was required to raise awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations. The International Year of Forests provided a means to that end. She declared that Poland actively supported the Year as a means of strengthening international dialogue on forests and further promoting sustainable forest management worldwide.

9. The Director General of the National Forest Commission of Mexico explained that a major priority for the Mexican Government was to seek international coordination and cooperation to bring the needs of mankind and natural resources into balance. The objectives of Mexico's ProTree initiative included poverty reduction in forest areas, improvements in the quality of life and better forest management. The initiative was an ambitious programme that provided support for those who lived in forests, promoted payment for environmental services and encouraged sustainable forest management through producer associations. There was also a major tree-planting programme in support of the Plant for the Planet:

Billion Tree Campaign, coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

10. Shamsul Momen Palash of the Organization of Art for Children and proprietor of the BanChashi nursery, Bangladesh, said that action was urgently needed to help "our sick planet". Today's environmental challenge was too big for any one country. The consequences of climate change were especially serious for low-lying countries, such as Bangladesh. In support of the UNEP campaign, he was planning to help a million children in Bangladesh to plant a million trees. That would involve personal visits to around 1,000 villages from now until 2011. In addition, he was promoting the establishment of neem trees in belts around cities. He concluded his statement by quoting Nobel prize winner Wangari Maathai that "when we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope".

11. The Chairman welcomed the inspiring discussion of plans and aspirations for the forthcoming International Year of Forests and stated that he hoped the Forum would continue to support such innovations and partnerships, as described during the panel discussion, while considering ways of helping to overcome constraints.

12. At the beginning and the close of the event, children from the Young People's Chorus of New York City sang specially composed songs entitled "Give us hope" and "Small voices". The composer, Jim Papoulis, founder of the Foundation for Small Voices, explained how he encouraged children and young people living in challenging circumstances to make music, noting the symbolic value of trees as an indicator of renewal and life in difficult environments.

Annex III

Chairman's summary of discussion on the panel of chairmen of governing bodies of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests undertook a new initiative by inviting the chairs of the governing bodies of forest-related intergovernmental and international organizations to assess opportunities and challenges in contributing to inter-agency coordination and ensuring that existing forest-related programmes and priorities were mutually supportive to the work of the Forum. The present summary highlights the expressed priorities of respective organizations in the coming years, as well as perspectives on enhanced collaboration.

2. The Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests reminded delegates that Partnership members were guided by Member States in relation to both their joint activities and their activities as individual organizations. Accordingly, he hoped that the Forum would provide clear guidance about the inputs it required from the Partnership and its members; this would form the basis for the Partnership's programme of work. He also emphasized the importance of providing consistent messages to Partnership members through their governing bodies.

3. The Coordinator of the Forum secretariat noted that the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum had the potential to revitalize the role assigned by the Charter of the United Nations to the Economic and Social Council as the body for policy coherence. The annual ministerial review would serve as an important platform for promoting unified implementation by building on existing reviews. The Development Cooperation Forum would provide an opportunity to discuss key factors affecting development cooperation. He highlighted the need to consider past Council resolutions regarding the Partnership.

4. The Chairman of the International Tropical Timber Council, stated that the organization had deployed some $300 million to implement projects and support policies to ensure the sustainable management of tropical forests. While there had been encouraging progress in a number of producer countries, problems remained, with only an estimated 12 per cent of the world's tropical forests under sustainable management. He noted that developing countries, in which most tropical forests were located, often had other pressing political priorities, adding that the challenges of sustainable management and biodiversity conservation were generally more complex in tropical forests. Issues included illegal logging, certification and indigenous peoples' rights. He stressed the importance of cooperation and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to providing support for the work of the Forum.

5. Speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Vice Minister for the Environment of Costa Rica emphasized the importance of collaboration on global forest-related issues to avoid duplication. He explained that UNEP was seeking consensus on environmental governance, highlighting the challenges that came with globalization. Those challenges included the need to address issues relating to the negative environmental consequences of economic growth, especially where international environmental costs could not be internalized; increased use of energy and climate

change; the spread of invasive species; and the concentration of financial power. He highlighted the importance of the work of the present session, stating that it would help reorient the international forest agenda as it moved into a new phase. At the same time, there was a need to strengthen the role of environmental institutions within the United Nations system, ensuring that resources were available to achieve the global objectives on forests.

6. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for International Forestry Research pointed out that, although forests had been close to the top of the international agenda for nearly 20 years, and while progress had been made in some parts of the world, deforestation and forest degradation continued, especially in less wealthy countries. He added that the climate change agenda was also increasing the focus on forests, and asked whether plantation owners or small-scale growers would benefit more from carbon trading. He also noted that increased use of biofuels presented threats as well as opportunities for forests, quoting as an example the conversion of forest land for palm oil production. He stated that, while the Centre could help to promote sustainable forest management by providing analyses, information, ideas and technologies, those efforts would ultimately only produce results if they were translated into action at the national level.

7. The Environment Department Director at the World Bank, speaking on behalf of the Vice-President and Head of the Sustainable Development Network, World Bank, said that the Bank placed great value on partnership. He added that the global objectives on forests were closely aligned with the Bank's forests strategy. Noting that traditional official development assistance (ODA) was not adequate to meet the challenge facing the forest sector, he stated that there was a need to find ways to leverage other forms of financial support. The undervaluation of forest products and services contributed to unsustainable forest practice and large-scale land conversion for short-term profits. The discussion of forests in the context of climate change provided, however, a new opportunity. The Bank was developing a new Global Forest Alliance that would help align the global objectives on forests with the climate-change agenda, while still tackling the issue of forest governance and matters of equity. To leverage resources, the new Alliance would take a portfolio approach, combining ODA and private-sector funding. As a complementary initiative, a Bank-administered forest carbon partnership facility was being considered; it would pilot instruments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation with the aim of generating payment to developing countries related to sustainable forest management. At present, the World Bank Group forest sector operations were worth between $300 and $500 million per year, and that programme would be substantially scaled up.

8. The Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, speaking as Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), stated that FAO was responding to rapid global changes by carrying out a strategic review of its forestry priorities and work activities by March 2009. Monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests continued as FAO priorities, notably through the Forest Resource Assessment and other annual statistical publications. Another core work area was voluntary guidelines and best practices, with the publication of recent guidelines on planted forests and fire management, and (with the International Tropical Timber Organization) work on best practices in forest law enforcement. He added that FAO work had contributed significantly to and reflected largely the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Panel on

Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Forum; a further example of that was the establishment of the National Forest Programme Facility. The work of FAO often complemented that of other partners and vice versa, as competition could stimulate innovation. He noted that cooperation among forest-related organizations was greater than ever before, though the fragmentation of responsibility for forest-related issues could be a challenge at the national level. He concluded by stating that existing instruments, trust funds and organizations needed to be strengthened, rather than creating new structures and new layers of governance.

9. A representative of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations stated that the Union was the only global network of forest science collaboration, uniting more than 15,000 scientists in 700 member organizations in over 110 countries. It had played a very active role in the Global Partnership on Forests through joint initiatives and activities, such as the Global Forest Information Service (available at www.gfis.net), and had organized many scientific meetings and conferences to support the activities of other Partnership members, Governments and stakeholders. He said that negotiations on a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests provided a unique opportunity to establish an internationally agreed basis for reaching a new quality of collaboration between policy and science at all levels. He informed delegates of a new joint initiative by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests initiative on science and technology that aimed at supporting the Forum and other forest-related intergovernmental processes by providing them with state-of-the-art scientific knowledge on issues of high concern.

10. A representative speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) outlined forest-related support provided through projects carried out under the work programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Since 2005, GEF had funded more than 230 projects in sustainable forest management, totalling more than $1.2 billion of GEF resources, which leveraged an additional $3.45 billion in co-financing. Following its 2006 replenishment, GEF was instituting a series of reforms that had led to the formulation of a framework strategy for sustainable forest management that would be presented to the GEF Council in June 2007. Another consequence of the reforms was a concerted effort to shorten and simplify the GEF project cycle to ensure that funding was provided in an expeditious manner.

11. During the subsequent discussion, the individual and joint initiatives undertaken by Partnership members were welcomed. Requests were made to shorten project approval times within individual member programmes and to increase the transparency of decisions. It was also suggested that national experts, rather than consultants from other countries, should review projects. Views were expressed about the need for further strengthening collaboration and cooperation, including at the regional level.

12. The Chairman closed the meeting by remarking on the value of the discussions, stating that, in the future, the Forum should look for more innovative ways of incorporating the experiences and perspectives of the members of the Partnership in its deliberations and discussions.

Annex IV

Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue

1. The multi-stakeholder dialogue[a] at the seventh session of the Forum was held in two parts.

2. The dialogue began with a general discussion on major groups' views on the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work, followed by an implementation-focused exchange on three themes: participation of indigenous and local communities; private sector investment in sustainable forest management; and major groups' participation in the programme of work. The present summary highlights key issues raised during those discussions.

Part 1
Non-legally binding instrument and multi-year programme of work

3. Children and youth stressed that, in order to adequately meet the needs of future generations, children need to learn how to make sustainable decisions. The role of education in building awareness of sustainable resource use and the need for capacity-building was emphasized. The inclusion of criteria and indicators that evaluate educational outcomes within national forest programmes of Member States was proposed.

4. Women stressed the continuing need to raise awareness on barriers faced by women in relation to sustainable forest management, and the need for structural changes within forestry organizations to reflect gender perspectives. Concerns were raised on current levels of participation of women in forest management decision-making and governance. Some of the barriers highlighted were the inadequate data and indicators on gender-related aspects of forestry; the fact that there were too few women in forestry institutions; the lack of capacity for gender responsive strategies within forestry institutions; the lack of mechanisms for equitable benefit-sharing; and insecure land tenure.

5. Farmers and small forest landowners emphasized the role of family and community forestry in fostering sustainable forest management and noted that sustainable forestry required a long-term commitment and a stable operational framework in order to deliver its economic, social and ecological benefits. The importance of clear and secured land ownership and land tenure rights in that regard was stressed. Highlighting the role of public-private partnerships in the implementation and promotion of sustainable forestry, closer partnerships between policymakers and major groups were called for, as was a mechanism for the recognition of successful partnerships.

6. Non-governmental organizations stressed the need for implementation of existing forest commitments, and cited the influence of vested interests controlling forest resources and a lack of political will as key factors hampering effective action. The need for the non-legally binding instruments to explicitly address

[a] The major groups participating in the multi-stakeholder dialogue were women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers and small forest landowners.

underlying causes of forest loss, which included unsustainable consumption and production patterns and unsustainable financial and timber trade flows, was emphasized.

7. Indigenous peoples called for immediate action to halt the alarming destruction of forests worldwide. Citing international human rights norms and the rights of local forest-dependant peoples, they stressed the need to address underlying causes of forest degradation and to promote forest governance. They pointed out that the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument inadequately addressed issues of rights of forest-dependent peoples, traditional forest-related knowledge and the vital role that indigenous peoples play in sustainable development. Emphasizing the cultural and spiritual importance of forests for indigenous and local communities, the group called for a benefit-sharing financial mechanism that was accessible to indigenous and local communities.

8. The scientific and technological communities pointed out that the crucial role played by science and technology had been recognized and highlighted in United Nations decisions since 2002. The successful use of scientific and technological advances to combat rampant deforestation and land degradation in developed countries was cited. References in the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument calling for a strengthening in the contribution of science and research by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes were welcomed. While welcoming resolutions on enhancing research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries, the group emphasized the promotion of collaborative research, support from developed countries, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and the need for those resolutions to be translated into concrete actions and programmes in the programme of work. Innovative and field-level initiatives, such as the joint Collaborative Partnership of Forests initiative on science and technology and the National Forest Programme Facility programme hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations were noted as fundamental building blocks on which further programmes could be built. International donors, Governments and financial institutions were urged to follow these resolutions with commitment to the trust funds of the Forum secretariat.

9. Workers and trade unions pointed out that the draft non-legally binding instrument did not include any references to workers, the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. It was stressed that any attempt that strove to reduce poverty or contribute to forest wealth generation must also consider aspects of decent pay and working conditions. The practice of outsourcing work and converting forest workers into "independent" contractors by private sector investors was cited. It was pointed out that, as long as 75 per cent of the forest workforce was obliged to engage in informal and/or contract work, poverty reduction, equitable benefit-sharing and international development goals could not be achieved. The need for equal treatment, health and safety, child-labour-free enterprises and the freedom to voluntarily negotiate working conditions was emphasized.

10. Workers and trade unions raised concerns that the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument implied that the social pillar was less important than the economic and environmental pillars of sustainable forest management. Stressing that ILO core labour standards constituted the minimum social standards for

empowerment, they pointed out that the global objectives on forests would not be achieved without taking those standards into account.

11. Governments welcomed the contributions from major groups and noted the importance of stakeholder involvement in the work of the Forum. Several Governments called for participation by major groups in the working group negotiations and requested major groups to provide text for the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work. The need for greater participation by local authorities and business and industry was emphasized. It was also noted that a representative from business and industry would be participating in the second segment of the multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Part 2
Moving beyond dialogue to action

12. While multi-stakeholder dialogues had been effective in involving major groups in the Forum's work, the need for innovative approaches to take the dialogue further, to enhance stakeholder engagement in policy deliberations and implementation of sustainable forest management was stressed. The substantive contributions of major groups on a variety of issues, including the root causes of deforestation, the role of traditional forest-related knowledge and gender aspects of sustainable forest management, were noted. The hands-on experience of major groups in grass-roots-level obstacles and challenges of sustainable forest management implementation was highlighted.

13. Major groups stressed that the status quo was unacceptable, and called for immediate definitive action to stem the loss of forests. They expressed their readiness to make concrete suggestions to ensure that the major groups were active partners in the solution.

14. It was pointed out that, while the major groups were poised to partner with Member States, the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument did not highlight stakeholder involvement sufficiently. Referring to references in the draft text on partnerships, the major groups likened their current role in the Forum to that of a "neglected wife" seeking reconciliation.

Participation by indigenous peoples and local communities

15. Indigenous peoples and non-governmental organizations pointed out that many indigenous groups were complex nations with a distinct legal status, which could cause difficulties for their participation in intergovernmental forums in which some Member States did not recognize their distinctive status.

16. The close relationship between indigenous peoples and their natural environment was stressed. The interconnection between the survival of indigenous communities and their knowledge of the natural world, which transcended issues of subsistence was highlighted. The central role of the environment and forests in the indigenous culture and way of life was also emphasized.

17. Farmers and small forest landowners stressed the need for clear roles and responsibilities in forest management. The need for participatory decision-making and equitable benefit-sharing was emphasized. Local communities and forest owners were seen as the real managers of forest resources, while the responsibilities

of Governments centred on policy development and the facilitation of sustainable forest management at the local level.

Private sector in sustainable forest management

18. Business and industry stressed the important role played by the private sector in funding and supporting sustainable forest management. They called for the non-legally binding instrument to make a strong statement on sustainable forest management principles, noting in particular the need for stable policy settings to encourage long-term investment and a strong partnership framework for best practices, economic growth and employment. On the issue of illegal logging, addressing the issue was seen as a moral and environmental imperative, critical to ensuring the legality and sustainability of forest products. The role of forest certification schemes in supporting national and international markets for forest products was also stressed.

19. Non-governmental organizations highlighted the different elements of private sector involvement in the forest industry and the multifunctional nature of forests, pointing out that the forest industry was broader than the wood and paper industry. They called for greater application and enforcement of existing laws to support sustainable forest management and provide a level playing field. Non-governmental organizations expressed their willingness to continue to work with industry and called for the involvement of civil society and major groups in certification schemes.

20. Farmers and small forest landowners pointed out that sustainable forest management should not be based solely upon subsidies. While Government involvement in certification schemes was seen to be critical, it was also felt that certification should remain a market-led initiative. Examples of certification schemes developed by forest owners, along with other examples of mutually supportive initiatives by Governments and private sector were cited. Noting that lack of recognition and resources were the key barriers to effective implementation of partnerships, the group called for a mechanism for effective recognition of public-private partnerships in the draft text of the non-legally binding instrument.

21. Women highlighted inequities when contracts were prepared between the private sector and local communities, and stressed that marginalized communities were often unable to negotiate effectively to protect their own interests. They called for mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of new resources and investments in forestry.

22. The scientific and technological communities pointed out that, in previous decades, it had been thought that private investment would provide the funds needed for developing forest sector development in developing countries. Noting the new public-private partnership approach, the group stressed the need for further analysis of the new obligations and responsibilities for both receiving and investing partners under that system. The critical role played by science and technology in research and development and building capacity at the national level was highlighted. The importance of education and raising awareness, and of financing for the implementation of sustainable forest management tools in education systems and extension programmes for local communities and land management practitioners, was also stressed.

23. Children and youth pointed out that while the portfolio approach put emphasis on private sector investment for sustainable forest management, the current demand for certified timber on the global market had not been very high. Given this lack of demand for certified timber, they voiced their concern as to whether the private sector would be willing to continue investing in sustainable forest management. They also raised a question on the potential role of the private sector in education and capacity-building for sustainable forest management.

24. Governments noted the importance of private sector investment in sustainable forest management, stressing the role played by long-term investments in providing incentives for forest production and management. The need for strong private-public partnerships was reiterated by several Governments. Significant additional investments towards developing partnerships with the private sector were called for, while the need for an enabling environment for such initiatives was also noted. The role played by forest certification schemes at the local, national and international levels was stressed, and several examples were presented.

Major group involvement in the implementation of the multi-year programme of work

25. Major groups described their vision of what would constitute a successful non-legally binding instrument and multi-year programme of work, and how each major group could contribute to that success.

26. Farmers and small forest landowners stated that, from their perspective, the non-legally binding instrument would be successful if it contributed to the implementation of sustainable forest management and the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, the need for intersectoral cooperation and coordination, balanced involvement of major groups and recognition of regional differences and regional forest policy processes were seen as key factors in the success of the instrument. It was pointed out that forest owners offered strong constructive partner organizations, which could also serve as an effective mechanism for capacity-building at the local level.

27. Children and youth emphasized the need for real commitment, stressing that a strong non-legally binding instrument would need to show how, and with what resources, the global objectives on forests could be reached. The need for the involvement of major groups in the development, implementation and evaluation of the instrument was also stressed. Pointing out the important role played by education in sustainable development, the group emphasized the need for education curricula that raised awareness of sustainable forest practices.

28. The scientific and technological communities called for recognition of the importance of science and technology, and also called for the non-legally binding instrument and the multi-year programme of work to provide an appropriate means for inclusion of scientific knowledge as a capacity-building measure, particularly in developing countries, where the link between science and policy was less visible. The importance of science for training, capacity-building and collection and the processing of technological information in developing countries was also stressed.

29. Non-governmental organizations stated that a successful outcome would be a strong political commitment to the implementation of the proposals contained in the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental

Forum on Forests. Several examples of the positive and substantive contributions of previous initiatives led by major groups were cited, including the initiatives led by indigenous peoples on traditional forest-related knowledge for the third and fourth sessions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests in Leticia, Colombia and San José; and the initiative led by non-governmental organizations for the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in San José on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Calling for greater major group involvement in the policy arena, the non-governmental organizations stressed the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships that included all stakeholders, rather than private-public partnerships.

30. Indigenous peoples stated that a successful outcome would include improved working relationship between indigenous peoples, Governments and other major groups. They expressed their readiness to work with other stakeholders to save forests not only for themselves, but also for all future generations.

31. Women called for an action-oriented outcome from the seventh session of the Forum that was grounded in community-level action and solutions. A partnership for action between Governments, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and major groups was proposed, focusing on equitable participation and benefit-sharing, social issues, monitoring and assessment of the non-legally binding instrument and innovative solutions. The contribution of women's groups to mainstreaming gender in forestry and to forming community networks was highlighted.

32. Women presented two concrete proposals. Firstly, that a Member State host a major group-led initiative in 2008 to develop a plan of action for the multi-year programme of work; and secondly, that a partnership fund be created to foster development of partnerships between Governments, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and major groups. The proposed partnership fund would provide funding for pilot projects demonstrating new and innovative ways of working together collaboratively.

33. Business and industry reiterated that a successful outcome would be a strong statement on principles and framework for sustainable forest management, outlining a clear commitment to stable policies and an enabling environment, along with an understanding of the need to engage with the private sector.

34. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests reiterated that the initiative and its individual members were ready to actively participate in the non-legally binding instrument, and to collaborate with major groups.

35. Governments welcomed the implementation-oriented focus of the discussion and stressed the need for commitment from all stakeholders to a successful outcome. The need for greater coordination, collaboration and consultation between all stakeholders through capacity-building and partnership mechanisms was mentioned by several Governments.

36. The Chair remarked that the proposal for an innovative, major group-led initiative was a good sign that stakeholder participation was evolving from dialogue to concrete action on the ground. He remarked on the insightful and informative perspectives that the major groups had brought to the session and stated that, in future, the Forum should seek more innovative ways of engaging and incorporating the perspectives of those stakeholders into its deliberations and discussions.

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